

**State Parks Deferred Maintenance**

**FY2008 Request: \$1,000,000**  
**Reference No: AMD38878**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Deferred Maintenance**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Nico Bus**House District:** Statewide**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2406**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2007 - 06/30/2009**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The Div. of Parks and Outdoor Recreation's 10 Year Strategic Plan identified a number of strategies for improving the quality and safety of outdoor recreation for park visitors. The highest priority action strategy identified in the new plan recommends addressing the dire deferred maintenance condition of many of the parks. While the past two years' capital appropriations have, or are being implemented to address the most serious needs, much more is needed to provide for clean, safe and adequately maintained park facilities. This request identifies some of the most critical needs across the state to reduce the current \$49 million deferred maintenance backlog.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Total
Gen Fund	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$6,000,000
Total:	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$6,000,000

☐ State Match Required   
 ☐ One-Time Project   
 ☐ Phased - new   
 ☐ Phased - underway   
 ☒ On-Going  
 0% = Minimum State Match % Required   
 ☒ Amendment   
 ☐ Mental Health Bill

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

SLA06/CH82 \$360,000  
 FSSLA05/CH3 \$200,000  
 SLA2004/CH159 \$50,000  
 SLA2002/CH1 \$283,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

This proposal is intended to take a significant bite out of the worst of the deferred maintenance needs identified within the park system. The list reflects that health and safety needs for park visitors are the highest priority and that benefits should be realized in park units across the state.

AS 41.21.020 states that one of the duties of the Department of Natural Resources is to maintain state parks and recreation areas for the general health, welfare, education, and enjoyment of Alaskans and visitors to the state. While Parks is able to perform minor repairs and painting to provide very basic annual maintenance to Park facilities, these facilities have been steadily deteriorating due to the lack of staff and funds needed to adequately maintain all facilities as required.

Alaska's state park system is the largest in America encompassing 24% of the nation's park lands. According to the yearly report from the National Association of State Park Directors, Alaska ranked 27<sup>th</sup> (up two from last year) in overnight camping visitation and 38<sup>th</sup> (up two from last year) in overall visitation in spite of our small population. However, it ranks 47<sup>th</sup> (down one from last year) in the number of employees and only two states (Hawaii and North Dakota) have smaller operating budgets. There are only 6 state park maintenance workers, statewide. Only one state has fewer (New Hampshire). And while Alaska State Parks staff are well versed in the time-old Alaskan tradition of making repairs with little more than duct

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tape and bailing wire, over two decade's worth of declining maintenance funding has so deteriorated Alaska's parks that duct tape no longer works.

The State Park infrastructure is broken. The longer we ignore the significant deferred maintenance needs of the state park system, the more expensive it will be to ultimately fix. In the meantime, the park system will lose visitors, and potential revenue for the state, as they are disgusted with the disrepair in many parks (outhouses and roads receive the most complaints). Also, the state runs the risk of paying for injuries or illness due to unsafe or unhealthy park facilities.

Proposed projects will upgrade or replace the basic facilities at parks including toilets, drinking water systems, and public access sites. Project funds will be divided between park field operations to address portions of the deferred maintenance that can be accomplished by keeping seasonal maintenance workers on duty full time, and to private sector contractors who can accomplish larger or more difficult maintenance repairs. Facilities upgraded or replaced by this project will be easier and less expensive to operate and maintain, thereby allowing operating and maintenance efforts to be shifted to other facilities in need of upgrade and repair. Fortunately, the past two years' capital appropriations have, or are being implemented to address the most serious needs. However, much more is needed to provide for clean, safe and adequately maintained park facilities. This request identifies some of the most critical needs across the state to reduce the current \$49 million deferred maintenance backlog.

**Why is this Project Needed Now:**

This project addresses the worst deferred maintenance needs across the state, replacing old, worn out toilets, providing for safe drinking water, refurbishing public access sites and protecting critical public facilities. If funds are not made available for these projects soon, far more funding will be necessary to make repairs, or worse, park visitors may be injured at sites where facilities are in such poor condition.

**Specific Spending Detail:**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Park Unit</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
\$60.0	Kenai River SMA – Big Eddy Unit	Toilet Replacement	Soldotna
\$60.0	Clam Gulch SRA	Toilet Replacement	Clam Gulch/Kasilof
\$300.0	Totem Bight State Historic Park	Restore/rehabilitate deteriorated totem poles	Ketchikan
\$170.0	Chugach State Park – Upper Huffman Trailhead	Parking area repairs/rehabilitation of overused facility	Anchorage
\$60.0	Quartz Lake SRA	Toilet Replacement	Fairbanks
\$25.0	Quartz Lake SRA	Drill new well to meet ADEC & ADA requirements	Fairbanks
\$60.0	Kenai River SMA – Slikok Creek Unit	Toilet Replacement	Soldotna
\$60.0	Settlers Cove SRS	Toilet Replacement	Ketchikan
\$10.0	Buskin River SRS	Toilet Repairs	Kodiak
\$60.0	King Mountain SRS	Toilet Replacement	Palmer/Sutton
\$60.0	Kenai River – Kenai River Flats Unit	Toilet Replacement	Soldotna
\$75.0	Chugach State Park	Trail and Trailhead Improvements	Anchorage

**Line Item Expenditures:**

Personal Services: \$140.0  
Travel: \$10.0  
Services: \$810.0  
Commodities: \$40.0

**Project Support:**

State Park visitors, Alaska Travel Industry Alliance, Alaska Wilderness Recreation Tourism Association, State Park Advisory Boards, local Chambers of Commerce, recreational user groups, and highway travelers, 78.7% of the individuals surveyed statewide for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

